



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 2 - May 2012

Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan Available for Public Comment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) available for public comment. This plan will help guide overall Refuge management for the next 15 years.

Thank you to those who attended our scoping meetings in Fall 2009 and alternatives meetings in Spring 2011. We have appreciated your comments, as well as those received by email and mail. Your ideas and comments helped shape our management alternatives for the Refuge.

The Draft CCP is now open for a 45-day public comment period. See page 4 of this update for directions on how to get a copy. We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft CCP. The following pages depict the locations of public use facilities in the preferred alternative and summarize the differences between the alternatives for all program areas. Comments may be submitted to Winnie Chan, the Refuge Planner, or myself at sfbaynwrc@fws.gov or mailed to SF Bay NWRC, Attention: DESFB CCP, 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA 94555.

Eric Mruz,
Refuge Manager



California Clapper Rail

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Keep informed of the CCP process at:

[www.fws.gov/cno/refuges/
DonEdwards/DonEdwards.
cfm](http://www.fws.gov/cno/refuges/DonEdwards/DonEdwards.cfm)

About the Refuge

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is located in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties in the south end of San Francisco Bay. The 30,000-acre Refuge, consists of several non-contiguous parcels that surround the southern edge of the San Francisco Bay. The Refuge was established to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, protect migratory birds, protect threatened and endangered species, as well as provide opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education.

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is part of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The refuge headquarters office is located in Fremont, California.

Refuge Biology

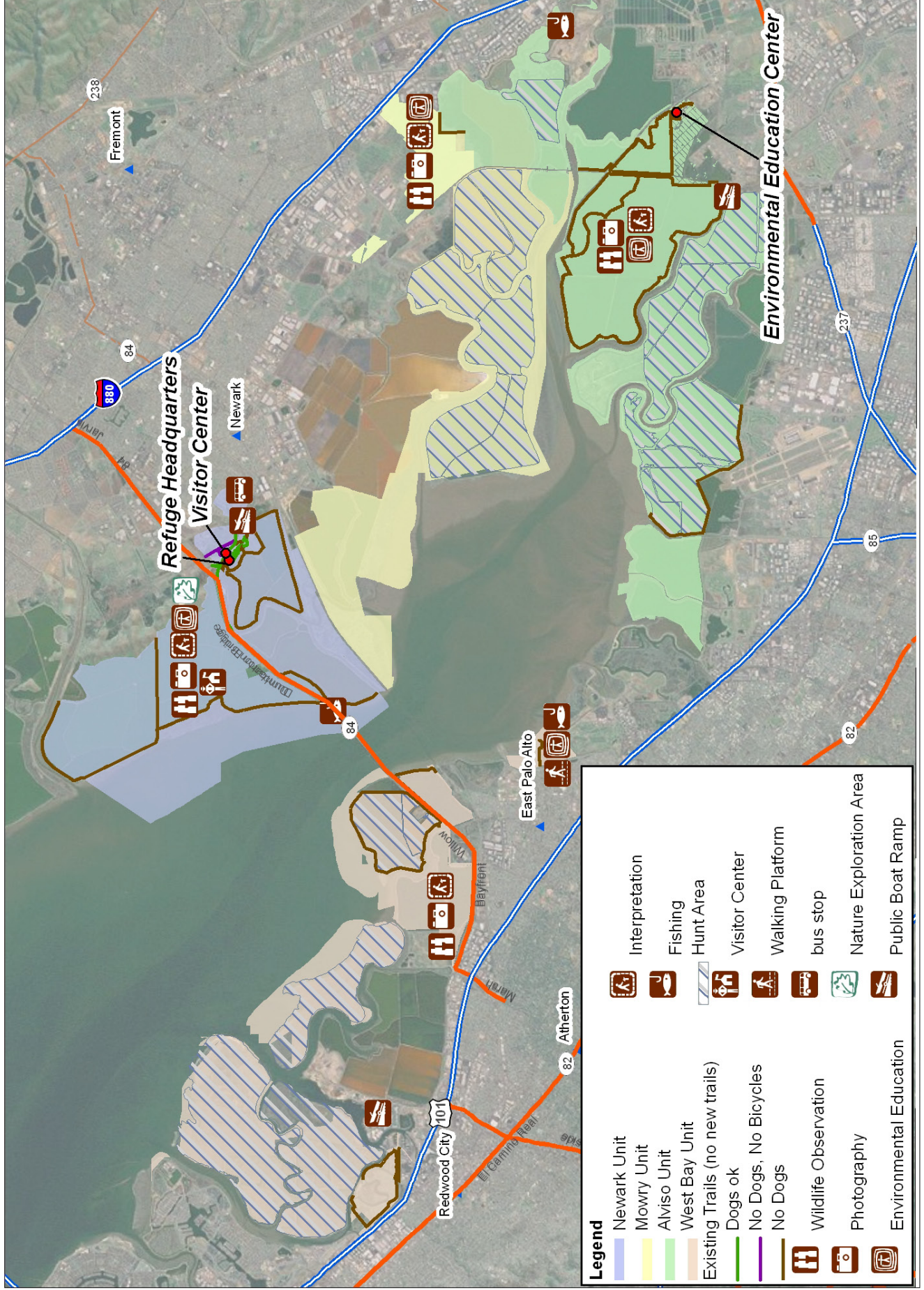
A variety of habitats occur on the Refuge, including vernal pools, tidal wetland, diked wetland, grassland, sub-tidal areas, and salt ponds. These habitats support a variety of federally-listed endangered or threatened species, including the:

- Contra Costa goldfields
- vernal pool tadpole shrimp
- California tiger salamander
- California clapper rail
- California least tern
- Western snowy plover
- salt marsh harvest mouse



Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Public Uses by Management Unit for Alternative B (Preferred Alternative)

Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties, California



Alternatives Developed

After careful consideration of public comments, Refuge staff have developed three alternatives briefly described below. A thorough description of each of the alternatives is available in Appendix B (Environmental Assessment) of the Draft CCP (see the last page on how to get a copy).

Alternative A: No Action. Under this alternative, the Refuge would continue current management actions, including habitat management, wildlife management, wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities, and environmental education. Habitat and wildlife management activities would continue to emphasize habitat restoration projects, invasive weed management, and predator management. A wide variety of wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities would continue to be offered including waterfowl hunting, observation, and interpretation. The environmental education program would continue to focus on a variety of topics such as habitat restoration and watershed protection. A few non-wildlife dependent recreational opportunities would continue to be permitted in certain areas, such as dog walking. Also, the volunteer program would continue.

Alternative B (preferred alternative): Moderate increase in wildlife management, habitat management, visitor services, and the environmental education program.

Under this alternative, the Refuge would moderately expand biological, habitat management, wildlife-oriented recreation, and environmental education activities. Additional biological activities would include baseline surveys on native flora and fauna, as well as a revised predator management program. Habitat would be improved for the western snowy plover and California least tern. Other habitat management activities would include development of a comprehensive weed management plan and addressing climate change impacts on Refuge resources. A mosquito management plan would be implemented to coordinate with local mosquito abatement districts to manage the threat of mosquito-borne disease on the Refuge.

Wildlife observation opportunities would be facilitated by a potential bus stop at the headquarters, additional viewing areas, and non-motorized boat launch sites. A wildlife photography permit system would be implemented to expand additional wildlife photography opportunities. The hunt program would be improved by expanded outreach through meetings and an interactive website. Access for dog walking would be reduced in

order to further protect tidal marsh areas. A new LEED-certified visitor center complex would be constructed and additional interpretation activities would be provided. The environmental education program would be updated and expanded in several ways such as through a LEED-certified remodel of the Environmental Education Center (EEC), Spanish translation of materials and curriculum, and adding programs at different sites. The volunteer program would be expanded through improving training for volunteers and developing permanent stewardship projects. Additional staff and funding would be needed to implement this alternative.

Alternative C: In addition to actions in Alternative B, substantial increase in wildlife management, habitat management, visitor services, and the environmental education program. Under this alternative, the Refuge would investigate reintroduction of the salt marsh harvest mouse and the California clapper rail, and surveys for other threatened and endangered plant species. Additional habitat management actions include revegetation of grassland areas, and more aggressive enhancement and restoration of the marsh-upland ecotone.

Visitor service opportunities would be improved through actions such as a potential bus stop at the EEC, constructing a dock for public boat access, and constructing universally-accessible photography blinds. A hunt fee would be imposed under this alternative to improve and fund additional hunt blinds. Dog walking opportunities would be eliminated from the entire Refuge to eliminate potential wildlife disturbance. Interpretation opportunities would be increased by developing an auto tour route and providing certain types of recreational equipment to facilitate wildlife observation. The environmental education program would be expanded to include a climate change curriculum, translation of current curriculum into additional languages, training other partners to conduct environmental education programs, and expanding the restoration education program to a variety of school and non-school based groups. Additional staff and funding would be needed to implement this alternative.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, California 94555
Address correction requested

How do I get a copy of the Draft CCP?

- Download a copy from:
www.fws.gov/cno/refuges/DonEdwards/DonEdwards.cfm
- Request a paper (limited number available) or CD copy of the Draft CCP via email, mail, or call:

sfbaynwrc@fws.gov

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1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, CA 94555

(510) 792-0222 - ask for Winnie Chan

